Colachal Port

*247. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint venture agreement was entered into for development of Colachal Port with Klana Port of Malaysia;

(b) if so, the major terms of agreement and the time-frame before which the project is to be completed;

(c) the present stage and progress of the project;

(d) whether there are any constraints in the completion of the project;

(e) if so, the measures envisaged to get over such problems; and

(f) the initiatives taken to develop the minor ports in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) Colachel Port is a Non-Major Port under the jurisdiction of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. According to the information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, no joint venture agreement has been entered into by them with Klang Port of Malaysia for the development of Colachel Port. The Government of Tamil Nadu has further informed that their earlier Port Policy of 1996-97 has now been amended, with effect from August, 2007 to attract private investment and develop captive ports and commercial ports to handle various types of cargo and that the new policy is expected to lead to development of Non-Major ports in Tamil Nadu.

Boundary talks with China

*248. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether boundary talks between India and China had made significant progress and the border areas remained peaceful and tranquil and whether this issue was discussed with the Chinese President during his recent visit to India;

(b) if so, the other issues that were discussed;

(c) whether any final agreement on the boundary issue was signed; and

(d) if so, the latest position thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (b) India and China are engaged in discussions to arrive at a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. There have been ten meetings of the Special Representatives so far. The first five meetings resulted in the signing of the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. Presently, the Special Representatives are exploring the framework for a final package settlement covering all sectors of the boundary on the basis of this Agreement. The next (eleventh) round of talks between the Special Representatives will be held at a mutually convenient time.

Pending the resolution of the boundary question, both sides have agreed to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas in accordance with the agreements of 1993, 1996 and 2005.

During the visit of Chinese President to India in November 2006, both sides stated that they were committed to resolving outstanding differences through peaceful means and in a fair, reasonable, mutually acceptable and proactive manner, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations. Further, both sides agreed that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and shall, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective.

The two sides issued a Joint Declaration in November 2006 that spelt out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level. The elements of this strategy include: ensuring comprehensive development of bilateral relations; consolidating commercial and economic exchanges; expanding all-round mutually beneficial cooperation; instilling mutual trust and confidence through defence cooperation; seeking early settlement of outstanding issues; promoting trans-border connectivity and cooperation; boosting cooperation in Science and Technology; revitalising cultural ties and nurturing people-to-people exchanges; and expanding cooperation on regional and international stage.

New CZM Notification

*249. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a new Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Notification replacing the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991;

(b) if so, the features of the new notification;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new CZM Notification poses serious threats to livelihood of coastal fishing workers and to coastal ecosystems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Most polluted rivers

†*250. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the name of the Ganges has been included in the list of ten most polluted rivers of the world;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.